

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

J. Loeb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present: J. Bauman, L. Dietz, B. Hopping, R. Roesler, and H. O'Flynn. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb; and Finance Director J. Cuff.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Loeb read the Mission Statement and the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held for the purpose of strategies regarding ongoing litigation in relation to real estate matters after which the meeting will adjourn

Schools will be closed starting Friday, December 23, 2011, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2012

School Committee will meet on January 5, 2012, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Mr. Dolan announced a \$5,000 donation from the Institution for Savings to IMADA for the purchase of band and orchestra instruments at the elementary schools as part of a three-part grant for younger kids who can't afford the purchase or rental and the opportunity to diversify at a younger age. Mr. Loeb thanked the bank for their wonderful donation. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept from the Institution for Savings through IMADA the \$5,000 donation to fund instruments at the elementary schools. UNANIMOUS.

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**A. SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, CLASS OF 2012**

Mr. Korb read the huge list of achievements that Megan Freiburger has along with her 4.4 grade average in the Honors and Advanced Placement program and presented her with the Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence, Class of 2012.

**B. FALL SPORTS AWARDS**

Mr. Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director, presented fall All League, All Stars in cross country, cheerleading, field hockey, football and boys' and girls' soccer.

**C. TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION**

Chris Burke, Instructional Technology Specialist, and Kevin Murphy, a 20-year technology engineer, presented PowerPoint slides in three areas of discussion: client, network infrastructure, and server. They presented benchmark standards for classrooms and outlined Ipswich's current capabilities including poor wireless access which is unreliable and slow. Standard network infrastructure was compared with Ipswich's obsolete switches, old equipment, limited wireless coverage, and no security. There is a town-wide fiber optic wide-area network (WAN) but the school buildings are not connected. Servers and software are not up to date and compatible. The hiring of a technology consultant to provide info on trends, software, infrastructure design, and strategic planning is essential.

The pair made several recommendations for technology staffing, strategic planning, and development of a five-year maintenance and replacement plan with a Phase 1 of \$475,000. Mr. Korb commented about the technology plan of two years ago, a recent meeting with the Educational Foundation when people expressed unwillingness to contribute because of lack of confidence in the ability and capacity of the system internally, and a need to address Phase 1 in infrastructure and staffing. Board members asked questions regarding life expectancy of hardware, funding by bonding or leasing, and the \$25,000 issue which exists because of lack of coordination between the Town and schools regarding the fiber optic system router to provide security and fire walls.

Mr. Loeb thanked Chris and Kevin for an excellent presentation.

## II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE/ADMINISTRATORS FY13 BUDGET WORKSHOP

### A. FY13 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mr. Loeb asked what the delta of the FY13 budget currently is, and Ms. Cuff gave a shortfall of \$840,000. The Board began examination of the document entitled "Consolidated Budget Workshop Discussion Topics." Under Non-classroom changes, Ms. Cuff reported that the number could rise to \$150,000 in teacher retirements. The savings for privatizing food services, teacher aides, and custodial services amounts to \$406,368 in health insurance. After discussion on the subject, there was the decision to talk with other towns which have privatized for their success of personnel brought in, quality of program, balance of maintenance costs, evaluation and supervision of personnel with an eye toward the possibility of its feasibility for FY13 in Ipswich.

Combining custodial services with the Town and business offices in the Town had a negative reaction among Board members. Mr. Korb offered "Cost Comparison of Town/Schools Finance Offices" as evidence of the school finance office having a higher budget but salaries \$55,000 less.

In consolidation of MS/HS administration, experience shows that it is not viable. In the revisiting of a K-2 and 3-5 elementary model, the Demographic Study Committee statistics generated much discussion and a chart shown by Mrs. McAdams (Winthrop School) of level staffing with priority of class size. Mrs. Roesler asked for data which was not provided in the final report by the Demographic Committee. Mr. Loeb pronounced all three possible consolidations as gone. Dr. O'Flynn had suggested a K-6 model for bell schedule and a 7-12 schedule which would save \$130,000 on bus transportation as worked out by Ms. Cuff, and she will continue to work on the bus scenario.

An \$80,000 saving can be accomplished with reducing the school year by one instructional day.

Under Classroom/Program changes, Mr. Korb reported that the SPED Director is looking to modify the 19 behavioral specialists at \$250,000 or consolidate. Reducing the grounds/fields maintenance by having college kids do the mowing (having purchased one piece of equipment) was suggested by Mr. Bedard. Reducing all 12-month positions to 11 months would mean an 8% reduction in salaries. Elimination/reduction of General Fund support for HS/MS athletics means the parents pay additional fees. Elimination of K-12 extra curricular stipends for clubs, organizations, and student activities (\$95,000) means an activity fee (according to Dr. O'Flynn) or meshing with athletics (Mr. Loeb). Closing one elementary school and running double

sessions at one site would save \$200,000 (Mr. Korb). Closing all the libraries, a \$100,000 saving, got a negative response. Also a “no cut” response came with elimination of the pre-K program when Mrs. McAdams said it would cost more in Special Ed later down the road. Eliminating field trips/athletics driver costs would save \$30,000.

Under Contract Issues, Mr. Cahill said that early retirement date selection and the continued employment of that person for a couple more years could be incentive money saved. Reopening the contract and negotiating a 2% FY13 and 1% FY14 increase would save \$200,000.

At 10 o'clock, Mr. Korb asked for direction for his administrators' meetings next Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr. Loeb and other Board members responded that teacher cuts are expected along with the need for more study on several of the issues discussed. At least one more workshop will take place. Mrs. Roesler asked about Doyon moving to the Winthrop model of co-teaching.

#### **IV. CONSENT**

##### **A. CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Acceptance of Minutes of December 1, 2011, Open Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of December 1, 2011, Executive Session
- Acceptance of the \$1,500 payment from the Enhanced School Health Grant to be used for health related items by all Ipswich Schools
- Acceptance of \$1,788.61 from Hockmeyer Studios to Ipswich High School in conjunction with the sale of school photographs
- Approval of the overnight field trip to Louisville, KY, March 1-4, 2012. The Ipswich High School Cheerleading Squad qualified for the National Cheerleader competition.

UNANIMOUS.

All other agenda items were suspended because of the time constraints needed for Executive Session.

#### **V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to go into Executive Session at 10:26 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to real estate litigation after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll call IN FAVOR - O'Flynn, Dietz, Hopping, Loeb, Bauman, Roesler.

#### **DOCUMENTS REVIEWED IN OPEN SESSION**

- Technology PowerPoint Presentation
- Consolidated Budget Workshop Discussion Topics
- FY13 Administrative Preliminary Budget Recommendations for School Committee/Administration Discussion and Consideration
- Cost Comparison Town/Schools Finance Offices
- Revenue Projections FY13 from Rita Negri, Town Accountant